

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A thin-film magnetic head includes a lower core layer, a gap layer formed on the lower core layer with a lower pole layer therebetween, an upper pole layer formed on the gap layer, an upper core layer formed on the upper pole layer, and a Gd-defining layer for defining the depth in the height direction of the joint surface between the gap layer and the upper pole layer. The width in the track width direction of the gap layer is smaller than or equal to the width in the track width direction of the upper pole layer when viewed from the surface facing the recording medium. By employing such a thin-film magnetic head, the width in the track width direction of the gap layer can be decreased, and thus track narrowing is achieved.

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